

## City backs study on raising of Bartlett Dam

### Future project may bring new surface water to Buckeye, West Valley cities

The city of Buckeye has joined municipalities from across the Valley to support a feasibility study into raising the height of Bartlett Dam. The goal? Increase Bartlett Reservoir's storage capacity with the hopes of securing a possible future surface water allocation.

Located 30 miles northeast of Scottsdale, the 308 foot tall dam sits within the Verde River watershed, an area that covers nearly 7,000 square miles across central and northern Arizona.

As snow melts and rain falls across this area, sediment and debris make their way into the Verde River and are carried downstream to Horseshoe Dam and Reservoir where they buildup over time.

This sediment has resulted in a 46,000 acre-feet drop in storage capacity since the dam was constructed in the 1940s. And it's getting worse. Each year Horseshoe reservoir loses an additional 1,000 acre-feet of storage capacity as new sediment accumulates. An acre foot of water is roughly enough to supply three families with water for a year.

Because removing this sediment would be a costly

and logistical nightmare, SRP and the Federal Bureau of Reclamation will spearhead the study to examine raising Bartlett Dam's height by 62 to 97 feet.

The increased storage capacity would mean between 60,000 and 115,000 additional acre-feet, enough water to supply 180,000 and 345,000

households. The reservoir's current capacity is more than 178,000 acre-feet.

Reclamation will pick up half the tab for the study with SRP and its partners, including Buckeye, chipping in the remainder.

To date, 15 other municipalities are supporting the study, including the West Valley cities of Surprise, Peoria, Goodyear, Avondale and

Glendale.

The study is expected to take two to four years, with a possible build out date somewhere around 10 years down the road.

In August, the Buckeye city council voted to support a memo of understanding between the city and SRP.

The agreement allows Water Resources to take an active role in providing input and serving on the



*Bartlett Dam located on the Verde River northeast of Scottsdale.*

*Study, continued from page 1*

project's steering committee. It also helps better position the city for a future share of any new surface water should the project come to fruition.

While Buckeye currently relies upon groundwater to provide potable water for our customers, this may change next year when the city is set to receive 2,876 acre-feet of Non-Indian Agricultural surface water from the Central Arizona Project. Water Resources is currently exploring options for this new water, including recharge or treatment and delivery.



Graphics courtesy of SRP

*Bartlett Dam as it currently exists.*



*Proposed modifications to Bartlett Dam.*



*"Thank you so much for all your help and patience with this 'old woman.' It is appreciated beyond words. "*

*- Kay Schaeffer*

*Message received by Water Conservation and Education Specialist Mdgouhs Ali.*

# Sun City Festival Water Forum

Get answers from water experts



**Elsa Varela**  
Consumer Advocate



**Mdgouhs Ali**  
Conservation Specialist

October 19th,  
Tuesday  
11 AM

register at [www.oursuncityfestival.net](http://www.oursuncityfestival.net)

**BUCKEYE, AZ**  
WATER RESOURCES

**Saguaro Center**  
26285 W. Morrow Dr.  
Buckeye

## Sun City Festival Water Forum on tap

Water Resources will hold a water forum for residents of Sun City Festival on October 19th at 11 a.m.

The event will feature presentations from department staff on the area's water quality, the revitalization and future expansion of the Festival wastewater treatment plant, and conservation tools for homeowners. Following the presentations, staff will be on hand to answer residents' questions.

The event is being held at the Saguaro Center and is only open to residents of Sun City Festival. Water Resources plans to host more forums in the future in other parts of the city.

To register, Sun City Festival residents should visit [www.oursuncityfestival.net](http://www.oursuncityfestival.net).





### City recognizes employees during “Water Hero Day”

Mayor Eric Orsborn proclaimed September 23rd “Thank a Water Hero Day” prior to the city council meeting on September 21. The day is set aside to recognize the critical work performed by the Water Resources Department’s dedicated staff.

***From the left:** Jason Battern, operator III; Eddie Solis, production superintendent; Alisha Solano, Water Resources Director; Mayor Eric Orsborn; Lisa Hord, administrative services manager; Arnold Coronado, waste water treatment superintendent*



Utility Billing celebrated Customer Service Week during the week October 4th - 7th.

The week is an internationally recognized celebration of the importance of customer service and of the people who serve and support customers on a daily basis.

First recognized in 1992 by congressional proclamation, the annual event is celebrated by

organizations in all 50 states and in more than 60 countries.

Utility Billing marked the week by holding employee potlucks at both the Sundance and City Hall locations.

In addition, staff participated in teambuilding activities including a workspace decorating contest and sharing customer service success stories on flags placed throughout the offices.



# Water “Tower of Terror” highlights the scary amount of water we each use daily

**B**uckeye residents can get a terrifying look at how much water the average person uses daily, thanks to the Water Use It Wisely Water Tower on display throughout October at the Buckeye Coyote Library, 21699 W. Yuma Road.

In the spirit of celebrating Halloween and spreading the water conservation message, the 16-foot-tall pyramid will be decorated for the holiday.

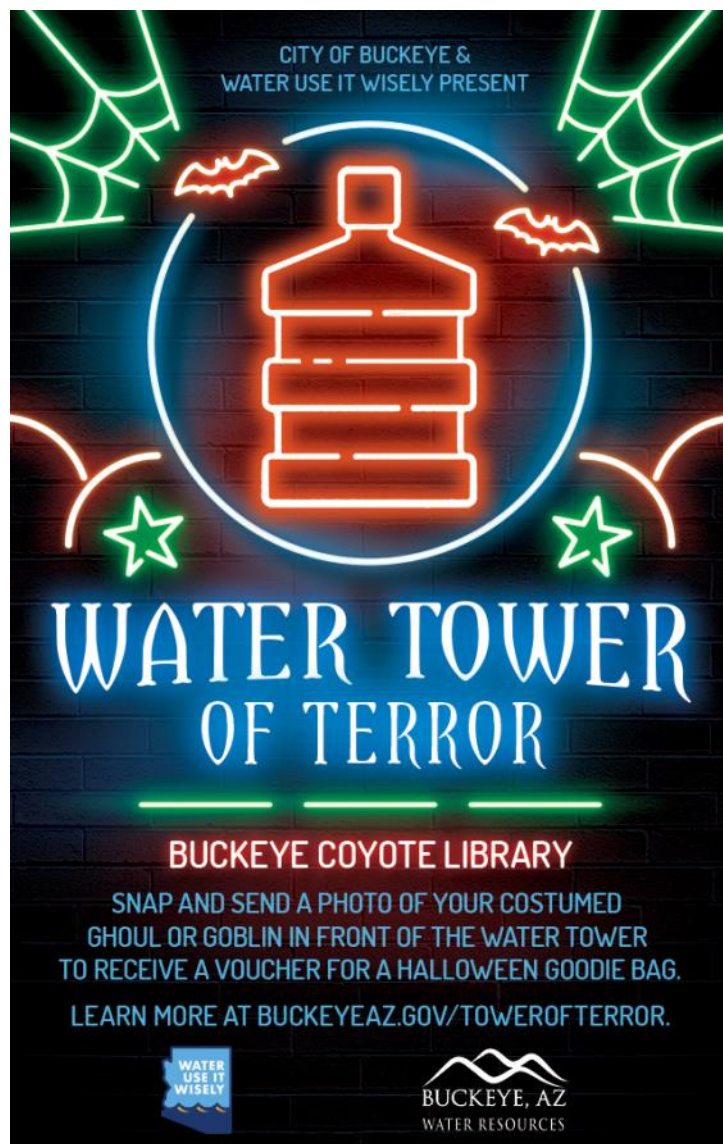
Parents are encouraged to snap a photo of their costumed child and submit it at [buckeyeaz.com/TowerofTerror](http://buckeyeaz.com/TowerofTerror) to receive a voucher for a fun Halloween goodie bag while supplies last.

Sponsored by the city’s Water Resources Department, the 120 1-gallon water jug display is designed to help people understand their average daily water usage - an excellent visualization for residents of all ages.

On average, one person uses 120 gallons of potable water daily:

- 65 gallons of water outdoors for landscape watering, pools, etc.
- 27 gallons for showers, baths, and flushing toilets
- 21 gallons for using faucets and cleaning (clothes washers, dishwashers, etc.)
- 7 gallons for other uses (drinking, etc.)

Details can be found at [buckeyeaz.gov/TowerofTerror](http://buckeyeaz.gov/TowerofTerror).



*Parents who snap and submit a photo of their costumed children in front of the water tower will earn a goodie bag for each child pictured.*